MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2019/2020 SESSION

PEN0045 - COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

(All groups)

9 MARCH 2020
2.30p.m. – 4.30p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of 9 pages with 2 sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write all your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [30 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the passages and answer all the questions.

Text 1 (13 marks)

India's Water Crisis

1 Cherrapunji, once the wettest place on Earth and a town in north eastern India, has been facing drought each winter for the past few years. Kerala, a state in the southwest, flooded devastatingly in 2018, but saw its wells run dry soon after. Chennai, a growing south-Indian metropolis, was flooded by rains in 2015, but in summer 2019, while waiting for the monsoon, its 11 million residents have watched three of its four reservoirs run dry. Meanwhile, across India, the groundwater that provides an invaluable buffer or storage area between monsoons is severely **depleted** and in danger of being permanently lost.

2 Welcome to the new India: hot and dry, wet and flooded, all at once, with the fates of 1.3 billion people riding upon increasingly **unpredictable** rains. The southwest monsoon, which usually drenches India from June to September, has come ten days late this year, bringing 30 per cent less rain than normal for the month of June. In the north, Delhi has thus far seen almost no rain, while in southern India, reservoir levels are running dangerously low.

3 Chennai, a megacity now dependent on water supplied to people in tanker trucks, leads the grim news. However, Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley, is not far behind. There are murmurs that this city will have used all its groundwater by 2020. The **predicament** of these two urban areas is a result of poor water management in a country that is soon to be the most populated on Earth.

4 Bangalore, one of the fastest growing cities in the world, has no permanent water source of its own. It has to pump water nearly 90 miles and up nearly 900 feet from the Cauvery, a river that flows south of the city. The city draws 1450 million litres per day which is about 385 million gallons from the Cauvery. Still, the water does not reach everybody. Bangalore's water woes are not as much a problem of supply, as it is of distribution. A quarter of Bangalore's population, living mostly outside the city, is not connected to the river water supply and is forced to mine groundwater to survive. Rampant groundwater extraction, unmonitored and unregulated, has caused Bangalore's water supply to plunge to depths of nearly 1,000 feet. Because it is muddy and contaminated, the diminished resource threatens the future of the citizens who depend upon it. Since in some places the groundwater is now below the level of the river itself, the river has begun to feed the groundwater. The Cauvery is thus being sucked dry from two sides: by the giant pipes that pump water into the city and by the bore wells that drive deeper each year, lowering the water supply to levels below that of the river and forcing the river to feed it.

5 The most unsettling issue is Bangalore's current water distribution

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problems could **evolve** into a fundamental crisis of supply because water-flows in the Cauvery are no longer secure. The change could happen because dry season water-flows from the upstream regions of the river have been declining. In the catchment regions of the Cauvery, widespread clear-cutting of forests to make way for coffee and palm-oil plantations has affected the soil's ability to retain and release water. Moreover, agricultural land-use has also changed near the river, with traditional paddy-fields giving way to coffee plantations. Paddy, with its requirement for standing water, meant that the fields traditionally acted as a sponge. Unlike paddy fields, coffee and palm-oil plantations require heavy irrigation and see significant water run-off.

6 "We don't seem to be connecting the dots," says Harini Nagendra, professor of sustainability at Azim Premji University in Bangalore. "Instead of trying to get more water into the Cauvery, we are investing time in fighting over its dwindling resources." If the Cauvery is dwindling, and groundwater is nearly exhausted, what options does Bangalore have? Well, Bangalore gets about 900 millimetres of rain in a year, which should be **sufficient** for its consumption. If the city were to catch half of that, it would translate to more than 100 litres per capita per day, far more than sufficient for domestic and drinking purposes. The next step would be to send some of the harvested rain via "recharge wells" back into groundwater, to begin to restore it. Besides, waste treatment plants can be put in place to treat some of the wastewater and use that to recharge groundwater.

7 However, there is one gaping hole in the hopeful vision evoked by these ideas: India's lack of the institutions and governance needed to oversee such efforts and manage the water supply soundly. In Bangalore, the governmental department that oversees groundwater extraction has just six employees; thus, monitoring and **enforcing** the law is difficult. At the larger river-basin level, there are no institutions in place to manage water resources at all. "We are all fixated on technological solutions to the water crisis," Nagendra laments. "What we really need are robust institutions and governance at the river-basin level so that we can understand what is happening to river flows." Without strong government involvement, known solutions to India's water crisis will not be implemented at a large scale to affect the bigger picture. If India can just build the institutions to do all that, there will indeed be hope.

Adapted from Arati Kumar Rao. (2019). India's water crisis can be helped with better building, planning. Retrieved from https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07 /india-water-crisis-drought-could-be-helped-better-building-planning/

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Part 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)

Instructions: Based on the passage, provide a word or a phrase that best expresses each of the following words.

Example:

	Word	Line	Meaning
	depleted	**(line 8)**	reduced or becoming smaller
a.	unpredictable	(line 10)	
b.	predicament	(line 18)	
c.	evolve	(line 37)	
d.	sufficient	(line 52)	
e.	enforcing	(line 62)	

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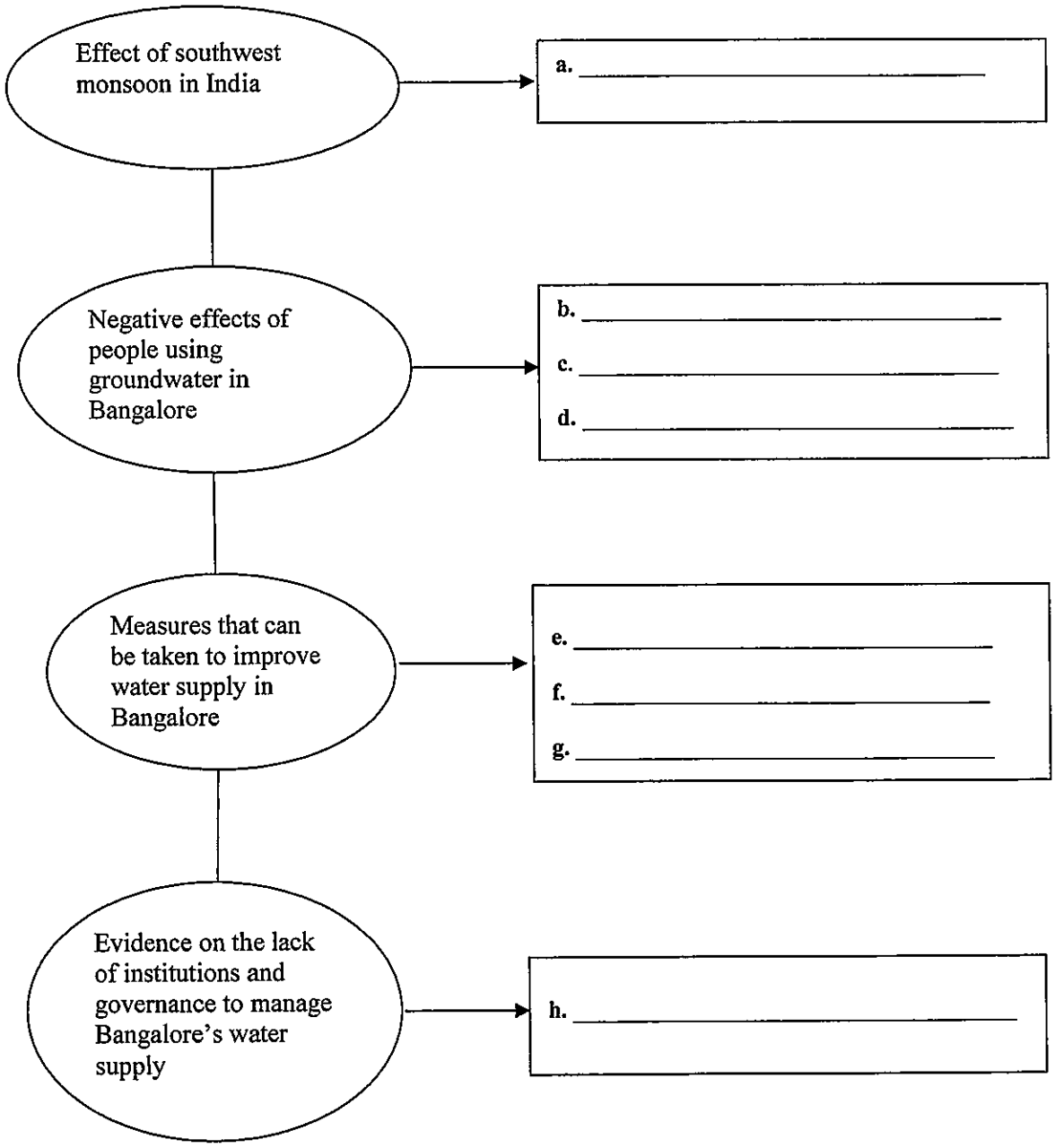
Part 2: Information Transfer (8 marks)

Instructions: Complete the graphic organiser below with information from the passage. Write your answers in the answer booklet.

India's Water Crisis


Effect of southwest monsoon in India
a. _____
Negative effects of people using groundwater in Bangalore
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
Measures that can be taken to improve water supply in Bangalore
e. _____
f. _____
g. _____
Evidence on the lack of institutions and governance to manage Bangalore's water supply
h. _____

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Text 2 (17 marks)

Binge-watching

1 Since the last decade, the concept of watching television (TV) has taken a major transition. Traditional TV scheduling made their viewers abide by the TV broadcast timings, subjected them to advertisements, and made them wait for days or weeks to watch their favourite series or movies. With the emergence of online streaming services, there is a tremendous reshaping of traditional broadcasting. Any broadcast may be watched with just a click anytime and anywhere. As watching TV series has never been so easy, a new behavioral phenomenon has arisen and is making subscribers to "binge-watch," that is, view multiple episodes of the same TV series in a single sitting.

2 You sit yourself down in front of the TV after a long day at work, and decide to start watching that new show everyone's been talking about. By midnight, you have watched half a season and find yourself tempted to stay up to watch just one more episode even though you know you will be paying for it at work the next morning. It happens to the best of us. Thanks to streaming platforms like Netflix and Hulu, we are granted access to several hundred show options that we can watch all in one sitting for a small amount of monthly fee. What a time to be alive, right?

3 A lot of researches indicate that binge-watching is becoming rampant. According to a survey done by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics, the average American spends around 2.7 hours watching TV per day, which adds up to almost 20 hours per week in total. As for the amount of binge-watching we are doing, a Netflix survey found that 61 per cent of users regularly watch between 2 and 6 episodes of a show in one sitting. A more recent study found that most Netflix members choose to binge-watch their way through a series versus taking their time, finishing an entire season in one week, on average. In fact, according to Netflix, 361,000 people watched all nine episodes of season 2 of 'Stranger Things' on the first day it was released. Of course, we would not do *this* if it did not feel good. In fact, the Netflix survey also found that 73 per cent of participants reported positive feelings associated with binge-watching. However, if you spent during the weekend watching season two of 'Stranger Things' in its entirety, you may have found yourself feeling exhausted by the end of it and downright depressed that you are out of episodes to watch.

4 There are a handful of reasons that binge-watching gives us positive feelings and then leaves us emotionally spent on the couch. Dr Renee Carr, a clinical psychologist, shares that the "feeling good" is because of the chemicals that are released in our brain. She explains that when we are engaged in an enjoyable activity like binge-watching, our brain releases dopamine, which is the body's own pleasure chemical. Therefore, when you continue binge-watching, the signals from your brain tell your body to continue doing it because it feels too good to stop. As a result, your brain continues producing dopamine and, in turn, your body feels like it is high on drugs. Therefore, your addiction to a particular TV show is actually your body's addiction to dopamine.

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5 Besides, spending so much time immersed in the lives of the characters portrayed on a show is also fuelling our binge-watching experience. We get drawn into story lines, become attached to characters and truly care about outcomes of conflicts. Hence, the act of binge-watching also offers us a temporary escape from our day-to-day grind, which can act as a helpful stress management tool. A binge can work like a steel door that blocks our brains from thinking about those constant stressors that force themselves into our thoughts. Apart from that, binge-watching can also help foster relationships with others who have been watching the same show as you. It does give you something to talk about with other people.

6 Have you ever felt sad after finishing a series? According to a survey, 34 per cent of the participants mentioned experiencing a deep sense of emptiness after they finished a show. Also, 20 per cent of them even cited depression and low mood as a consequence of finishing it. In a study done by the University of Toledo, binge-watchers have reported higher levels of stress, anxiety and depression than those who were not binge-watchers. Besides experiencing depression, adults who watched more than three hours of television a day doubled their risk of premature death compared to those who watched less. This is because sitting for long stretches of time increases your risk of health issues including diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, even if you also exercise regularly. Besides, binge-watching also can impact our mental health. For starters, if you are not doing it with a roommate or partner, binge-watching can quickly become isolating. When we substitute television for human relations we disconnect from our human nature and substitute for the virtual. If you find yourself choosing a night in with Netflix over seeing friends and family, it is a sign that this habit is headed into harmful territory.

7 There is nothing inherently wrong with the occasional TV binge. Problems occur when you do it too much. Though how much screen time is too much varies from person to person depending on genetics, state of mind, age, personal traits and many other things. There are still plenty of ways to set limits on your binge-watching to circumvent the biggest health risks. The key to reaping the benefits of binge-watching without suffering from the negative repercussions is to set parametres for the time you spend with your television. In addition to pleasure, we often binge-watch to obtain psychological closure from the previous episode. However, because each new episode leaves you with more questions, you can engage in healthy binge-watching by setting a predetermined end time for the binge. Besides, make sure that you are balancing your binge with other activities. After binge-watching, go out with friends or do something fun. By creating an additional source of pleasure, you will be less likely to become addicted to or binge-watch the show. It is also important to increase your physical exercise activity or join an adult athletic league. By increasing your heart rate and stimulating your body, you can give yourself a more effective and longer-term experience of fun and excitement.

Adapted from Page, D. (2017). What happens to your brain when you binge-watch a TV series. Retrieved from https://www.nbcnews.com/better/health/what-happens-your-brain-when-you-binge-watch-tv-series-ncna816991

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Part 1: True-False Statements (5 marks)

Instructions: Identify each statement as TRUE or FALSE.

a. Online streaming services have negatively affected traditional broadcasting.

b. 73 per cent of Netflix users have positively responded to the survey that was conducted on binge-watching.

c. Binge-watching can cause one to feel both happy and depressed at the same time.

d. The duration of healthy screen time differs from one person to another depending on various factors.

e. There is empirical evidence to prove that level of anxiety is comparatively higher among binge-watchers.

Part 2: Comprehension (12 marks)

Instructions: Based on the passage above, answer all the following questions.

a. Why has binge-watching become common among many people? (1 mark)

b. What is the main idea of paragraph 3? (1 mark)

c. What does the word *'this'* in line 26 refer to? (1 mark)

d. What are the reasons that fuel people to do binge-watching? (3 marks)

e. State three negative effects of binge-watching to an individual. (3 marks)

f. Explain three ways to overcome negative repercussions of binge-watching. (3 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [20 MARKS]

Part 1: Subject-Verb Agreement (10 marks)

Instructions: The following text contains **ten errors** in Subject-Verb Agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.

Example:	Line	Error	Correction
	1	were	was

How to Be Happy When Everything Goes Wrong

1 In the summer of 2010, Rachelle Friedman **were** preparing for one of the best periods of her life. During her bachelorette party at the pool, one of her friends playfully pushed her into the shallow end of the water. Friedman floated slowly to the top of the pool until her face emerged. It was immediately obvious that something were wrong. Her head had struck the bottom of the pool and shattered two vertebrae which severed her spinal cord and left her permanently paralysed from the chest down. She would never walk again.

2 One year later, she decided to share some of her own thoughts on the whole experience. She said it was frustrating and uncomfortable to deal with the nerve pain, but she also shared a variety of surprisingly positive answers. For example, when asked if things changed for the worse she said, "Well things did change, but I cannot say in a bad way at all." Then, when asked about her relationship with her husband she said, "I think my husband and I is just so happy because my injury could have been worse." How is it possible to be happy when everything in life seem to go wrong? As it turns out, Rachelle's situation can reveal a lot about how our brains responds to traumatic events and what actually makes us happy.

3 A social psychologist at Harvard University, Dan Gilbert, wrote a best-selling book, *Stumbling on Happiness*, which discuss the many ways in which we miscalculate how situations will make us happy or sad. Gilbert, in his book, reveal some counterintuitive insights about how to be happy. One of the primary discoveries are that extreme inescapable situations often trigger a response from our brain that increases positivity and happiness. For example, imagine your house is destroyed in an earthquake or you suffer a serious injury in a car accident and loses the use of your legs. When asked to describe the impact of such an event most people talks about how devastating it would be. Some people even say they would rather be dead than never be able to walk again, but what researchers find is that when people actually endures a traumatic event, like living through an earthquake or becoming a paraplegic, their happiness levels six months after the event are nearly identical with their happiness levels on the day before the event.

Adapted from Clear, J. (n. d.). How to be happy when everything goes wrong. Retrieved from https://jamesclear.com/impact-bias

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Part 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)

Instructions: Write the appropriate verb tenses for the words in brackets.

1. Every morning without fail, the dog _____ (stand) at the door waiting for June to open it and let him out.

2. Sarrah registered for her post-graduate studies in 2015. This is already year 2020. It means that she _____ (study) for five years now and counting.

3. It was raining very heavily for three hours yesterday. The water _____ (rise) very quickly and caused flash floods at several areas.

4. Currently, Adam is in his second last trimester of his Diploma programme. He _____ (do) his internship programme next trimester for three months before graduating.

5. Zaidan was in Jordan last week, and we planned to meet this week, but he _____ (leave) for Turkey this morning due to an emergency before I arrived in Jordan this afternoon.

6. Aliahusamsi started working in Multitechnical University since September 1997. It means that this coming September 2020, she _____ (work) in Multitechnical University for 23 years.

7. Robin is diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder today. Thus, he needs to take his medicine regularly and has to start to see the psychiatrist every week at the hospital. Next week, he _____ (see) the psychiatrist again for his weekly appointment.

8. At 7 o'clock last night, I went to visit Deena, but she was busy writing a ten-page essay for her assignment. She told me that she had begun working on it since 7 o'clock in the morning. I was surprised to know that she _____ (write) the essay for 12 hours when I came to see her.

9. Yesterday evening, while Lashvini and her friends _____ (discuss) about their English assignment at the library, suddenly there was a loud crash heard in the silent building. It turned out that a wild boar had escaped into the library and caused havoc.

10. My mother and grandmother are in the kitchen right now. They _____ (prepare) to make Lasagna for lunch today. I am so happy that they remember that it is my favourite food. I cannot wait for it to be ready.

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